

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Guatemala REPORT NO. CS - 39385  
 SUBJECT Reaction of Guatemalan Army officers to Recent Arms Shipment to Guatemala DATE DISTR. 1 June 1954  
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 PLACE ACQUIRED Guatemala, Guatemala City

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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SOURCE: U.S. businessman with extensive military background (B); former Guatemalan Army officer (B); and an individual with many contacts in military circles (B).  
Appraisal of Content: 3.

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1. Many Guatemalan Army officers, though professionally glad to receive new arms, have grave misgivings about the recent shipment of arms to Guatemala on the Swedish ship ALFHEN.
2. The most common reasons cited for their feelings are as follows:
  - a. this incident has dramatically demonstrated the close ties between the Guatemalan and Soviet Governments;
  - b. they fear that the U.S. Military Mission to Guatemala will be replaced by a large group of Soviet or Satellite instructors, who might even displace some Guatemalan officers;
  - c. the present shipment of arms from the Soviets is shocking evidence that the Soviet and Guatemalan Communists intend to take over Guatemala completely;
  - d. the U.S. Government may be forced to take drastic action, which would have terrible consequences for Guatemala.
3. As a result of this incident, there are indications that many officers now feel they should take a stronger anti-Communist stand than they have heretofore been willing to do.

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